with ability to add 1.2 crore jobs in the textile sector during the next 4 years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the basis for such assumptions;

(c) whether in the backdrop of such assumptions, Government propose to reform the labour laws in the textile sector; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Vision Statement for the Textile Sector issued by the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation in August 2004, mentions that the Indian textile industry is expected to double its share in the global textile and clothing sector from the present 3% to 6% by 2010 which may lead to creation of 1.2 crore jobs, mainly for the semi-skilled and unskilled labour.

(c) and (d) Government has recognized Labour Reforms as one of the major bottlenecks for lack of growth and investment, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the textile sector, restricting the employment opportunities. Therefore, in order to create an enabling environment for the textile industry to create additional jobs, it is vital that certain flexibility in labour laws be given to the textile sector because creation of large employment opportunities is itself is a measure of labour protection. However, Government has not taken any final decision on the nature of Labour Reforms.

Development of silk industry in NER

329. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the promotion and development of silk industry in NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Central Silk Board a statutory organization under the Ministry of Textiles has been implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz.* Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for promotion and development of sericulture in collaboration with various State Sericulture Departments

including North Eastern States during the Tenth Plan. The components of CDP envisage development and expansion of host plants, development of farm infrastructure, upgradation of reeling and processing technologies in silk, enterprise development programme etc. Based on the proposals received from the North Eastern States, during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, CSB has released a sum of Rs. 293.51 lakhs, Rs. 659.20 lakhs and Rs. 1248.43 lakhs respectively towards implementation of various schemes/components under Catalytic Development Programme. For the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 1753.00 lakh has been earmarked exclusively for the North Eastern States towards implementation of the Catalytic Development Programme.

Apart from this, some State Specific projects under implementation for the development of sericulture industry in NER are as follows:

1. Manipur Sericulture Project;
2. Development of Mulberry Sericulture in Mizoram;
3. Project for the development of Oak Tasar in Manipur; and
4. Perspective Plan for the development of Vanya Silks in Arunachal Pradesh.

Closure of jute mills

330. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down jute mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether with the closure of jute mills, thousands of workers will be rendered jobless;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for the safety of their jobs?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.